

# National Air Quality and Emissions Trends Report, 1998

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards  
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### **About the Cover**

The map on the cover displays the 1998 annual average PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations at monitoring sites in the Interagency Monitoring of PROtected Environments (IMPROVE) network. The IMPROVE network was established in 1987 to track visibility impairment in the nation's most pristine areas, like national parks and wilderness areas. (See Chapter 6 for more information on the IMPROVE network.) The size of the pie charts is proportional to the annual average concentration of measured PM<sub>2.5</sub>. The slices of the pie charts show the percentages of the known chemical constituents of PM<sub>2.5</sub>. The map reveals that rural PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations vary regionally, with sites in the East typically having higher annual average concentrations. Levels at most sites in the West are roughly less than half of those in the East.

Data Source: The IMPROVE network.

### **Disclaimer**

This report has been reviewed and approved for publication by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards. Mention of trade names or commercial products are not intended to constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

### **Acknowledgments**

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## **Preface**

This is the twenty-sixth annual report on air pollution trends in the United States issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The report is prepared by the Air Quality Trends Analysis Group (AQTAG) in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina and is directed toward both the technical air pollution audience and other interested parties and individuals.

The report can be accessed via the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/airtrends/>. AQTAG solicits comments on this report and welcomes suggestions regarding techniques, interpretations, conclusions, or methods of presentation. Comments can be submitted via the website or mailed to:

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Readers can access data from the Aerometric Information Retrieval System (AIRS) at <http://www.epa.gov/airsdata/> and real time air pollution data at <http://www.epa.gov/airnow/>.



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# Acronyms

AIRS	Aerometric Information Retrieval System	NARSTO	North American Research Strategy for Tropospheric Ozone
AQRV	Air-Quality Related Values	NESCAUM	Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management
AIRMoN	Atmospheric Integrated Assessment Monitoring Network	NMOC	Non-Methane Organic Compound
CAA	Clean Air Act	NO <sub>2</sub>	Nitrogen Dioxide
CAAA	Clean Air Act Amendments	NO <sub>x</sub>	Nitrogen Oxides
CARB	California Air Resources Board	NPS	National Park Service
CASAC	Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee	NTI	National Toxics Inventory
CASTNet	Clean Air Status and Trends Network	O <sub>3</sub>	Ozone
CEMs	Continuous Emissions Monitors	OTAG	The Ozone Transport Assessment Group
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	PAHs	Polyaromatic Hydrocarbons
CO	Carbon Monoxide	PAMS	Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations
CMSA	Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area	PAN	Peroxyacetyl Nitrate
DST	Daylight Savings Time	Pb	Lead
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	PCBs	Polychlorinated Biphenyls
FRM	Federal Reference Method	PM <sub>10</sub>	Particulate Matter of 10 micrometers in diameter or less
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	Particulate Matter of 2.5 micrometers in diameter or less
GLM	General Linear Model	POM	Polycyclic Organic Matter
HAPs	Hazardous Air Pollutants	ppm	Parts Per Million
IADN	Integrated Atmospheric Deposition Network	PSI	Pollutant Standards Index
I/M	Inspection and Maintenance Programs	RFG	Reformulated Gasoline
IMPROVE	Interagency Monitoring of PROtected Environments	RVP	Reid Vapor Pressure
MACT	Maximum Achievable Control Technology	SLAMS	State and Local Air Monitoring Stations
MARAMA	Mid-Atlantic Regional Air Management Association	SNMOC	Speciated Non-Methane Organic Compound
MDN	Mercury Deposition Network	SO <sub>2</sub>	Sulfur Dioxide
MSA	Metropolitan Statistical Area	SO <sub>x</sub>	Sulfur Oxides
MDL	Minimum Detectable Level	TNMOC	Total Non-Methane Organic Compound
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards	TRI	Toxic Release Inventory
NADP	National Atmospheric Deposition Program	TSP	Total Suspended Particulate
NAMS	National Air Monitoring Stations	UATMP	Urban Air Toxics Monitoring Program
NAPAP	National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program	VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled
		VOCs	Volatile Organic Compounds
		µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Micrograms Per Cubic Meter

